The Southern PATRIOT

Volume 8 | New Orleans, Louisiana, May, 1950 | No. 5

ANCIENT SEGREGATIONAL BARRIERS TUMBLE IN FIVE KENTUCKY SCHOOLS

Five Kentucky schools for higher education dropped long-standing barriers against Negro students last month.

This move resulted shortly after the Kentucky legislature amended the 46-year-old Day Law which "prohibited co-education of the races in any of the institutions of the state."

The schools were: Berea College, Louisville University, and three Catholic institutions, Nazareth and Ursuline colleges for girls and Bellarmine college for boys.

Their action is of extremely great importance for Southern education, following in substance as it does the resolution drafted at the First South-Wide Conference on Discrimination in Higher Education held last month in Atlanta.

Berea was the first to abandon discrimination, its board of governors announcing:

"We affirm our dedication to the youth of the Appalachian Mountain region to which we have tried faithfully to minister for nearly a century and we continue to see in these young people a challenge greater than we can hope to discharge in any foreseeable length of time.

"We also express our interest in the efforts of Negro youth of this region to get an education and we hereby empower our administration to admit such Negro students from within this mountain region whom we find thoroughly qualified . . . and whom in their judgment it appears we should serve."

From 1866 to 1904 Berea accepted Negro students without any discrimination but was forced to abandon this policy with the passage of the Day Law, which was directed at it especially.

Berea students, who worked actively in the fight to get the law amended, have now started a move to add Negro members to the faculty.

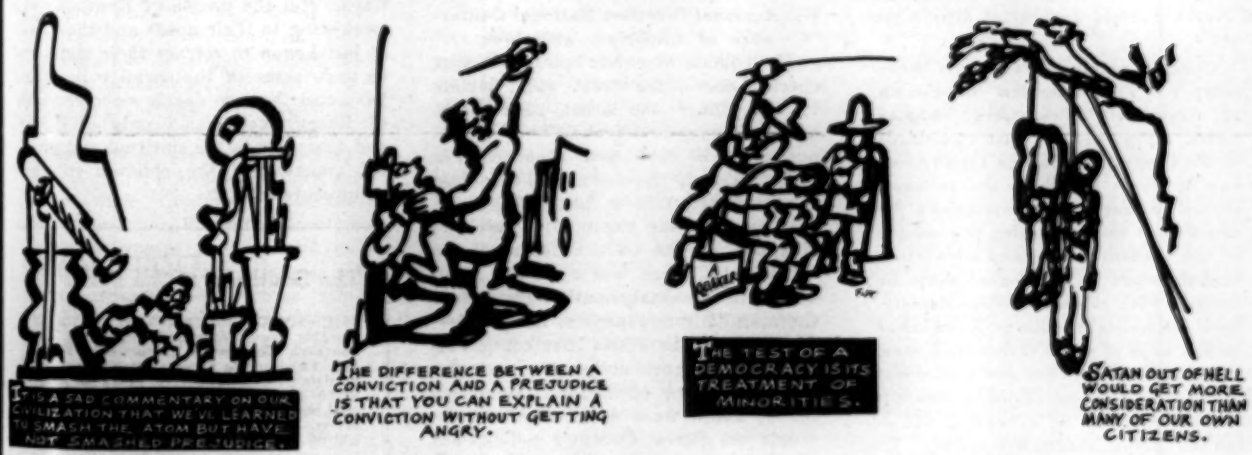
Among Berea's alumni is included the late Dr. Carter G. Woodson, famed Negro historian.

The University of Louisville board of trustees voted unanimously to admit Negroes to all graduate divisions during the 1950-51 school year and to all schools, graduate and undergraduate the following year. At the same time it voted to close Louisville Municipal College, its Jim Crow adjunct, after the 1950-51 school year.

Dr. John W. Taylor, school president, in announcing this decision also revealed that four Negroes had already applied for entrance.

Announcement of the Catholic schools' change in policy was made under the signatures of the Rev. Alfred F. Horrigan of Bellarmine, and Sisters Charles Mary, Nazareth and George Marie, Ursuline.

A Compact Punch At Prejudice


IT'S A SAD COMMENTARY ON OUR CIVILIZATION THAT WE'VE LEARNED TO SMASH THE ATOM BUT HAVE NOT SMASHED PREJUDICE.
"THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CONVICTION AND A PREJUDICE IS THAT YOU CAN EXPLAIN A CONVICTION WITHOUT GETTING ANGRY."
THE TEST OF A DEMOCRACY IS ITS TREATMENT OF MINORITIES.
SATAN OUT OF HELL WOULD GET MORE CONSIDERATION THAN MANY OF OUR OWN CITIZENS.

ADAM'S CHILDREN: This 2½"x3" pamphlet is small enough to fit in your watch pocket but it presents in 28 witty and hard hitting drawings, by the noted artist Frank Hanley, a powerful indictment of racial and religious prejudice and intolerance. A sample copy may be had without cost by writing to the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., 822 Perdido St., New Orleans, La. Additional copies are 10c each, 12 for $1.00.

Campus Reception of Day Law Amendment

Report From Louisville U.

by DR. LOUIS C. KESSELMAN
Ass't Prof. of Political Science and Author of "Social Politics of the FEPC"

The University of Louisville trustees took their all-out stand to end segregation shortly after the authorities of Berea College and the three Catholic colleges in Louisville opened their doors to Negroes on the under-graduate level. An informal poll of board members a few days before their final vote indicated that they would limit admissions to the graduate and professional schools. Consequently, the announcement by the other schools must be given much of the credit for alleviating the board members' fear of adverse community reaction to opening up the undergraduate college.

Community reaction to the board's announcement has been difficult to gauge. The general feeling seems to be that it was inevitable in view of the federal court decisions and that, like it or not, non-segregated education is here to stay. No community leader has spoken out against the merger. However, the Louisville **Courier-Journal** did not distinguish itself by any bold advocacy of full admission of Negroes in the period before the board acted. "State schools and universities supported by tax money," editorialized the **Courier-Journal**, "cannot too far outrun the prevailing prejudices of taxpayers in such matters as segregation, however much their governors may feel a moral distaste for racial discrimination."

Campus reaction was much more positive. The American Association of University Professors chapter which represents at least two-thirds of the liberal arts college faculty and has members in all of the colleges, passed a series of resolutions by unanimous vote endorsing the merger of the student bodies and advocating that the staff of the Negro college be merged with the arts college faculty, with the available jobs to be awarded on the basis of merit rather than race.

Student reaction has not been highly vocal. Like the rest of the community, students seem to be accepting the action as being inevitable today. The student paper, however, gave enthusiastic approval to the merger in an editorial entitled "After 46 Years An Error Is Redeemed." Also, the preliminary results of a random poll of three hundred liberal arts students taken since the board announcement indicates that 65 percent of this sample approves of the merger.

In the next year many problems remain to be solved. Arrangements must be made for the Negro faculty members. It is hoped that some of them will become members of the liberal arts college faculty. This would indeed be a pioneering step for a border state school. If this does not prove feasible, equitable severance pay and pension arrangements must be worked out.

There will also be student adjustment problems. Negro students will have to adjust to higher scholastic standards. Some may not be able to pay the higher tuition at the university. Plans must be made to integrate the Negro students into extra-curricular and athletic activities as well as the academic program.

While the job of adjustment ahead is not easy, the university starts with many advantages. President Taylor has announced that there is to be no segregation of any kind on the campus. The faculty, by and large, is eagerly looking forward to the challenge presented by the merger. And while the community is fairly passive as yet, careful planning can do much to sell the merits of non-segregated education.

General Report

by JOHN T. KENNA

Ky. Regional Director, National Conference of Christians and Jews

The climate of public opinion, in spot checks, man-in-the-street polls, letters to the editor and other such methods of gauging feeling on public questions, is calm and generally not unfavorable to the actions taken. This is particularly true in Louisville, where such a step was expected, where the financial burden of a separate Negro Municipal College was a strong argument for the amalgamation and where the only daily newspapers, the **Courier-Journal** and **The Times** have consistently called for such action.

In the town of Berea (population 2,500) there were some adverse comments on Berea College's policy, but there were also some very favorable remarks, and the feeling of college authorities seems to be that these matters will work themselves out in time.

Of course, the most encouraging reactions to the new developments have come from those who are most directly concerned — the student bodies of the colleges themselves. Among Berea's students there was no perceptible dissatisfaction, and, while a few of the girls at the Catholic colleges were heard to disagree and even to threaten to withdraw from the schools, the general feeling among both authorities and students seems to be that these scattered remarks in no wise constitute a serious problem.

Student leaders at the University of Louisville are anxious to minimize differences in handling new students next year, preferring to concentrate on treating all student problems as human problems affecting people, not Negroes or whites as much. They are planning to invite Dr. Ralph Bunche and other distinguished Americans who happen to be Negroes to the campus by way of indirectly preparing the campus to take for granted Negro participation as individuals in learning and in the national life.

These happenings are the making of history. Unfortunately, the realities of the situation are such that the initial steps must be taken at the top, in the field of higher education, rather than at the beginnings of the formation of a child's habit of thought.

There are a great many problems of relationships, a great many possible tensions and strains in the working out of these new dynamic and democratic ways. But the people of Kentucky are awakening to their needs and they have at last begun to retrace their steps and to undo some of the social evils which have cost them so dearly since the days of Reconstruction not only in dollars and cents but in the spiritual and physical make-up of the children of their commonwealth.

The Southern PATRIOT

THE SOUTHERN PATRIOT published monthly except July and August by The Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., 822 Perdido Street, New Orleans 12, Louisiana. Twenty-five cents a copy. $2.00 a year. Entered as second-class mail matter October 5, 1946, at the Postoffice, New Orleans, Louisiana under the Act of March 3, 1879.

THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

AUBREY WILLIAMS ..... President
BENJAMIN E. MAYS ..... Vice-President
ALVA W. TAYLOR ..... Secty.-Treasurer
JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI ..... Dir. & Editor

Atlanta Conference: Scenes and Clippings

Dr. Ludd M. Spivey, Conference Chairman
White, Negro Educators Hit Regional Program as Means Of Perpetuating Segregation
THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1950.
BIAS LAWS OPPOSED BY SOUTHERN GROUP
The Afro-American, April 15, 1950
Strong Stand Against Separate Schools Taken by 300 at Atlanta Conference
White Students, Teachers Tell of Attempts to Have Doors Opened; Regional Pact Fought
Regional Education Plan Scored By Teacher Group
Regional College Plan Hit By Educators Meet Here
A Great Step Forward
Legal Actor Branch Head
Einstein Lauds Education Fight On Segregation
SOUTHERN HEAD CALLS FOR RACE ISSUE SOLUTION
President Rufus E. Clement, Conference host, with group of delegates
South's Plan To Educate Negroes Hit
Mixed Group Attacks Governors' Program
Left to right: Dr. L. D. Reddick Dr. E. Franklin Frazier, Dr. James H. Dillard, Jr.

TRENDS

The following telegram was sent to Dr. Ludd M. Spivey at the South-Wide Conference on Discrimination in Higher Education session in Atlanta:

"The National Association of College Women in its 27th annual convention in session in Washington, D. C., congratulates the first South-Wide Conference on Discrimination in Higher Education and anticipates far reaching developments therefrom. Because we are convinced that human relations are retarded by separateness in education as well as in other areas of living we repudiate strongly the separate but equal philosophy and reaffirm our conviction that the regional school plan as outlined and administered in its present form is detrimental to the democratic process.

Flemmie P. Kittrell,
President."

Faulkner Protest

The verdicts handed down to the slayers of three Negro children in Kosciusko, Miss., drew forth a protest from the noted Southern writer William Faulkner. Calling the sentences "only a little better than nothing, not for justice nor even punishment," Faulkner —well known for his states rights sympathies—said searchingly in a letter to the Memphis Commercial Appeal, ". . . we had better be afraid . . . that we have been wrong; that what we had loved and defended not only didn't want the defense and wasn't worthy of the defense, but worse: incapable of the one and indefensible to the other."

* * *

A resolution calling for work toward the complete integration of Negro members and Negro churches into the Methodist movement has been adopted by the Assembly of Methodist Woman's Society of Christian Service. Included in the motion was a provision for a petition to the Methodist General Conference meeting in San Francisco in 1952 "to work with greater speed to rid itself of the sin of segregation." Also approved was a resolution opposing the Mundt bill.

Warings Speak

Mrs. J. Waties Waring delivered a scathing attack on gradualism at Richmond, Va., declaring that "force is the only thing that will work" to break down social barriers. Her husband, Federal Judge Waring, defined "force" as "every court decree" to answer Dixiecrat critics who hoped to get impeachment proceedings started on the basis of a literal interpretation of the word.

* * *

The Supreme Court ruling upholding the constitutionality of the Georgia County unit voting system was interpreted by many liberals as a bad omen for the forthcoming decisions on three segregation cases now pending before the court. Since this system allows votes in some rural counties to carry as much as 122 times more weight as in urban areas where labor, liberal and Negro voters live, it is feared that a similar sense of jurisprudence may prevail in the court on the Sweatt, Henderson and McLaurin cases.

* * *

Strike!

The American Bowling Congress' Jim Crow proviso was knocked for a row